

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, November 29, 1885, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. L Grand Union Hotel, New York, November 29th, 1885. Mrs. A. Graham Bell, Scott Circle, Washington, D. C. My dear little wife:

I was disappointed upon my arrival here last night to find no telegram from you — but about midnight I came to the conclusion that as I had registered as plain “A. G. Bell” — and as you would probably direct your telegram to “the inventor of the speaking telephone” — there might after all be a telegram for me downstairs. I accordingly searched the pile and found one addressed to “Alexander Graham pell Gu Ho” which I took the liberty of opening. I forward the envelope for your edification.

I sent the following note to President Barnard this morning:— “Dear President Barnard:

“The Report you were kind enough to send me substantially embodies my views on the questions submitted to the Academy and I am sure you are to be congratulated upon your success in expressing so fully the views of the Committee.

“The only improvement I could suggest would be in the treatment of the third question which appears to me to be elaborated somewhat too much at length. I am inclined to think it might be improved by condensation and by a few changes in minor details.

“If not too late I should be glad to have the opportunity of discussing these points with you personally if you can appoint an hour when I can see you.”

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I have asked him to appoint an hour for tomorrow morning as I am starting for Brooklyn to inquire about Miss Radcliffe and do not know when I shall get back to the hotel. I am afraid

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I shall find poor Dr. Radcliffe there already. If not I shall send him full particulars and only hope his sister's illness is not so serious as he fears.

I propose to visit Pres. Barnard and the Science office tomorrow before proceeding further on my journey — a few stores also!

I was so interested last night in working out some of the details of a machine for setting and distributing type automatically that I failed to set pen to paper for you. When I return from Brooklyn I will try to give you an account of it. I would like you to show the description to Mr. Gleeson so that he may occupy his thoughts with the same problems that are in my mind.

When he has finished the educational toy he is making for me now — I want him to show it to you and then proceed to make another for Line-writing characters. I will send you drawings of this for him. Telegraph how your father is. I am quite troubled about him. Love to Elsie and Daisy.

Your affectionate husband, Alec. P. S. Address all telegrams and letters to me while on this trip simply to “A. G. Bell” — as I want to be economical! You will double my expenses if “Alex. Graham Bell” appears. I want to be incog. AGB